

### Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 and 23 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 23 has been added herein.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 917 096 (Kawanabe et al.). Claims 4, 9-12 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,634,730 (Bobry) and U.S. Patent No. 5,293,319 (DeSha et al.). Claim 13 was rejected under § 103 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,820 (Cunnagin et al.). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,085 (Yagi et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium using a printhead. The apparatus includes an interface, a memory, discriminating means, confirmation means, write control means and printing control means. The interface connects to a host and receives information from the host. The memory stores characteristic information of the printhead. The discriminating means discriminates whether or not a command sent from the host based on information inputted to the host is a command including the characteristic information of the printhead. The confirmation means confirms whether or not the

command including the characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by the discriminating means is valid. The write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead into the memory in a case that the confirmation means confirms that the command is valid. The printing control means controls the printhead to print in accordance with the characteristic information written into the memory.

With the above arrangement, because the confirmation means confirms whether or not the command including the characteristic information of the printhead is valid and in a case that it is confirmed that the command is valid the write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead into the memory, the validity of characteristic information of a printhead can always be assured upon rewriting the characteristic information of the printhead. This is because the claimed invention clearly defines what condition initiates the rewriting of the characteristic information of the printhead.

On the other hand, the printer of Kawanabe et al. clearly differs from this feature. In particular, Kawanabe et al. discloses a technique for updating printhead information in a printer in a case where a command from a host includes characteristic information of a printhead. The Office Action refers to Table 2 at page 28 to suggest that Kawanabe et al. examines a check sum and confirms whether or not the command from the host is valid based on the check sum.

However, the check sum of Kawanabe et al. merely relates to printhead cleaning times and does not relate to rewriting characteristic information of a printhead. Kawanabe et al. does not disclose or suggest confirming whether or not a command is valid

using such check sum after it is discriminated that the command is a command including characteristic information of a printhead. That is, Kawanabe et al. fails to disclose or suggest when to check command validity in connection with rewriting of characteristic information of a printhead.

As discussed previously, in Kawanabe et al., regardless of whether or not the command is valid, as long as it is discriminated that the command includes the characteristic information of the printhead, the information currently stored in a memory is unconditionally rewritten by newly received information from the host. In this case, original valid information might be replaced by new invalid information. The validity of the information cannot be assured.

Accordingly, Kawanabe et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a command sent from a host based on information inputted to the host is a command including characteristic information of the printhead, confirmation means for confirming whether or not the command including the characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by the discriminating means is valid, and write control means for controlling to write the characteristic information of the printhead into a memory in a case that the confirmation means confirms that the command is valid, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Kawanabe et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Bobry, DeSha et al., Cunnagin et al. and Yagi et al. have also been reviewed, but are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Kawanabe et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-20 and 23 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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